

# Archival description - preparing for a new version of EAD

2022-03-09

## **Presenters and facilitators**

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# A brief introduction to TS-EAS



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American  
Archivists

Technical Subcommittee on  
Encoded Archival Standards

# TS-EAS

- Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards at the Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Background and work covered in this presentation:
  - <https://youtu.be/9NXNyx9py-I>

We take care of the formats you use to manage and share archival information

We need your comments, suggestions and bug reports

Your input drives our work forward



# Where you can find more

Websites and general information

TS EAS

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas>



TS EAS on GitHub

<https://github.com/SAA-SDT>



EAD publication

<http://www.loc.gov/ead/index.html>



EAC publication

<https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/>



# How you can get in contact

Mailing list and reporting options

Our mailing list

[EAD@LISTSERV.LOC.GOV](mailto:EAD@LISTSERV.LOC.GOV)



E-mail

[ts-eas@archivists.org](mailto:ts-eas@archivists.org)



Reporting an issue via GitHub

<https://github.com/SAA-SDT>



Reporting an issue via SAA

<https://www2.archivists.org/standards/TS-EAS-report-an-issue>



# How TS-EAS works

## Membership and teams

### Membership

50/50 SAA members and international members

International includes mostly Europe, but also South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania

### Teams

Teams for EAD, EAC-CPF, Functions

Schema team

Outreach team



# Standards revision

Minor revisions

Annual rolling revision cycle for minor releases

(see more on GitHub:

<https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/rolling-revision-cycle.md>)



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# Standards revision

Major revision

Evaluate standards for potential major revision every five years following guidelines by SAA's Standards Committee

(see more:

<https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/Development-and-Review> )





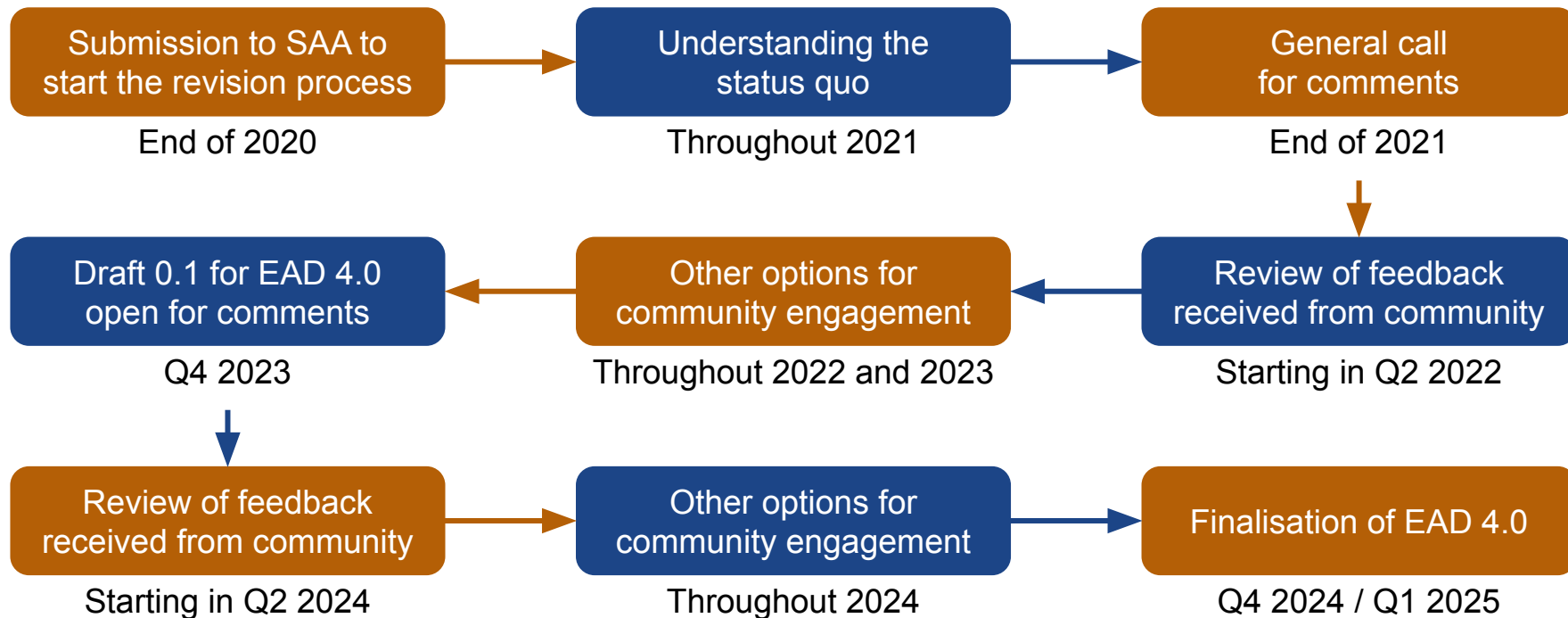
# The major revision of EAD



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# Timeline



# Timeline

Submission of EAD 4.0 to  
SAA for approval

Q1 2025

Publication of EAD 4.0

Q2 / Q3 2025

Monthly meetings of the EAD team  
Possibly one or two multi-day meetings of the EAD team  
Throughout the revision process



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# Timeline in the context of today's webinar

Options for community  
engagement

Throughout 2022 and 2023

*General webinars*

*Targeted webinars*

*Other events*

Options for community  
engagement

Throughout 2024

*e.g. to clarify feedback and  
get examples / use cases*

# The challenges of the status quo

- Two versions of EAD widely used in parallel to each other
  - A new version needs to be of benefit for both, users of EAD 2002 and EAD3

# The challenges of the status quo

- EAD is mainly an exchange format
  - Still some use in hands-on XML work
  - But more often “only” an export format
  - A new version needs to pick up on what archivists need to describe and on what users want to search, while being as straightforward as possible for machines to process

# The main strands of the revision

- Alignment with EAC-CPF 2.0
  - Following a shared schema approach to enable more interoperability between the EAS, e.g.
    - camelCase spelling
    - Enhanced approaches to date and place encoding
    - Additional possibilities for document-internal and document-external referencing

# The main strands of the revision

- Relations to other standards
  - Records in Contexts
  - PREMIS (and preservation metadata in general)
  - BIBFRAME
  - schema.org Architypes
  - JSON and/or JSON-LD (as schema deliverable)



# Other aspects of the revision

- Digital objects
  - Digitised material, but also born-digital
- Support for multilinguality
- Mapping to and integration of Linked Data vocabularies
- Granularity of encoding
  - Question of formatting and mixed content
  - Option of simple and extended versions (in consideration)

# Contextual aspects of the revision

- Ease of being able to upgrade
  - Making the incentives clear(er) to upgrade from EAD 2002 and/or EAD3 to the new version
  - Official transformations
  - Potentially templates for the new version in different formats

# Contextual aspects of the revision

- Supporting resources
  - Tag Library and Best Practice Guide
  - Mappings and crosswalks with related standards
  - Example files and use cases

# Contextual aspects of the revision

- Tools and techniques
  - Maybe plugins for solution providers to use
  - Maybe cooperation with SyncroSoft (oXygen)
- Education
  - Making education resources more international
  - Making education resources more adaptable to different contexts

# Breakout rooms



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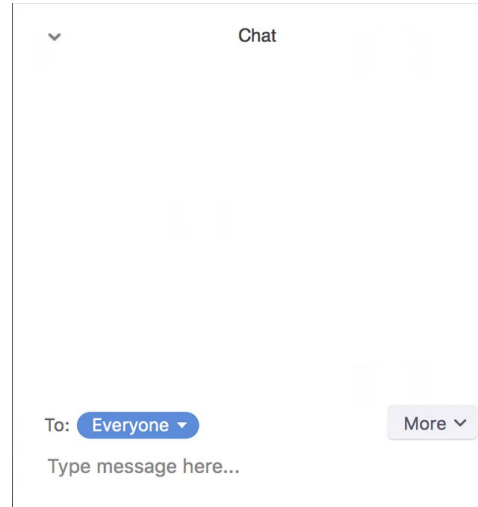
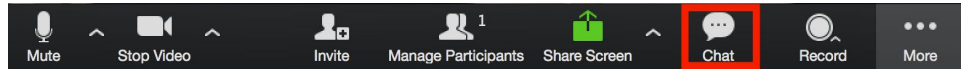
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# Summary and more room questions and discussion



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Use **chat** for questions

# Thank you very much for your participation!

Report an issue via <https://www2.archivists.org/standards/TS-EAS-report-an-issue> or  
<https://github.com/SAA-SDT/EAD3/issues/new> <https://forms.gle/4pKDVH7RpQKUUh8iXA>



The recording will be available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/saastaff>

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Please complete our survey: <https://forms.gle/4pKDVH7RpQKU8iXA>